



Office of the Mayor
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To: Urbana City Council Members

From: Laurel Prussing

Re: Revised Funding for Arts and Culture Projects

Dear Charlie, David, Robert, Brandon, Dennis, Heather and Diane,

After thinking through the options for fundraising for "Urbanastand" I believe it would not be practical. The city and city staff cannot ask businesses to contribute, for example, because we regulate them. We would need a private citizen to do it. The sentiment among the public seems overwhelmingly negative, however. Also I think it would be a mistake to set a precedent for going over budgets. I believe our Public Arts Commission is correct that projects that come in over budget should be dropped.

My suggestion would be to re-arrange some TIF-financed arts and cultural funding as follows:

1. Take half the \$38,000 we budgeted for the Lincoln museum in the courthouse and give it instead to the clock tower restoration, where a donor is poised to make a matching gift. (Our \$19,000 would be doubled.) I ran this by Barb Wysocki, museum champion and major donor and she and other museum champs like the idea.
2. Purchase a commercial newsstand (the one that would have been the center of Urbanastand) for about \$4,000
3. Use \$9,000 of the savings from the original \$15,000 budget for Urbanastand to provide matching funds for recent contributors to Art in the Park, which, believe it or not folks, is on the verge of being completed. (Carl Weber has been raising additional funds.)
4. Pay the Urbanastand artist a "kill fee" as Dennis suggested.

I am submitting two motions on the agenda for September 8th for your consideration (under New Business).

